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Fire Destroys Farm Buildings

The second farm-buildings fire in two months, caused more than $2-500 damage Tuesday afternoon, on the farm at Poolesville, rented by Clarence C. Offutt, Jr.

Three engines from Rockville and the Upper Montgomery County fire departments, extinguished the blaze which started about 3.45 p. m. Volunteer firemen dammed a stream on the property and laid 1,400 feet of hose to pour water on the blaze.

A farm granary and machine-shed, belonging to Harold C. Smith, Rockville attorney and former magistrate, were totally destroyed. The farm owner said their loss is in excess of $1,000, partially covered by insurance.

A tractor, truck, manure spreader, haycarriage wagon and seven tons of straw belonging to Offutt, who rents the farm, were also burned.

Two months ago, a 30-stanchion cowbarn, immediately adjacent to the buildings burned yesterday, was destroyed for a loss of $10,000.

Mr. Smith attributed both fires on his property to carelessness of hired help. He said an unidentified colored youth was taken to Rockville yesterday afternoon, for investigation of the cause of the fire.

The hired man admitted throwing a burning cigarette to the littered floor of the granary, while playing about the buildings with children, Smith said.

Benjamin Franklin is credited in saying that a person can get as much exercise in walking a mile up and down stairs as in five miles on level ground.

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